Abstract of the Invention

A method for producing an optical fluoride crystal includes translating a crucible containing a molten crystal raw material from a first zone, through a thermally-graded zone, into a second zone to form a crystal and controlling a temperature of at least one of the first zone and the second zone such that an effective radial temperature gradient at a point in the thermally-graded zone where the crystal is formed does not exceed 5 °C/cm.